SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — June 5, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

STATE POWER, the natural objective of revolution

STATE power is the natural objective of revolution. Impatient of the domination and oppression of imperialism and its agents, the downtrodden people have to rise up and topple it and seize control. This is what has happened in South Viet Nam. The emergence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government on June 6, 1969 was a culmination in the shaping up of revolutionary power and a milestone on the road of glory and success of the South Vietnamese people and army.

The coming into being of revolutionary power was the crowning of their all-out exertions in every field during long years of confrontation with US aggression. On the other hand, since its occurrence, the event has had a tremendous impact on their anti-US resistance for national salvation. The formation of the PRG namely has brought about a great turning in the political life of the land. Its 12-point programme of action inspired by the line of resistance against US aggression for national salvation of the National Front for Liberation political platform has been instrumental in the marshalling of the whole people's spiritual and material strength, in the steady progress of the effort, in the continual thwarting of all enemy vicious moves and methods and in the achievement of considerable successes. Since the birth of the PRG, one has witnessed the taxing efforts of the Nixon Administration to bring to fruition its wicked Vietnamization of the war, and the concurrent gains of unprecedented size and scope of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces.

"Vietnamization," backbone of the Nixon doctrine, has been put to an acid test. Various tactics of the Pentagon have been successively foiled. "Pacification" is in deep waters. In pursuance of the wild dream of destroying the infrastructure of the resistance, prop of the revolutionary power, and of ultimately wiping out the latter and restoring their own rule, the US imperialists and the Thieu gang have fielded 80% of the Saigon troops supported and covered to a high level by US forces in South Viet Nam in futile attempts to implement their programme. This has been stopped short in many localities, has suffered severe setbacks in different areas and since the outbreak of the current wave of offensives and uprisings in late March has been unmistakably and irremediably nodding to its ruin. Through this gruelling trial, the revolutionary power has evinced extraordinary stamina and vitality. As a result of the sweeping attacks and insurrections, the liberated areas have been expanding. In the whole Quang Tri province, not a single enemy is to be found. Revolutionary writ is running there unchallenged. In Tay Ninh, in Eastern Nam Bo (former Cochinchina), in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) and in the Mekong Delta tens of districts, hundreds of villages have been cleared of all quislings and placed under the people's newly established rule.

THE grim and multiform struggle of the people to set up their power stamps on it a clear-cut mark. The presence of representatives of all sections of society, all political tendencies, all nationalities and creeds illustrates its popular character. But what is most typical of its real nature is its lines and policies and actual needs. In the present situation of South Viet Nam, a genuine people's regime cannot but take as its primary task the

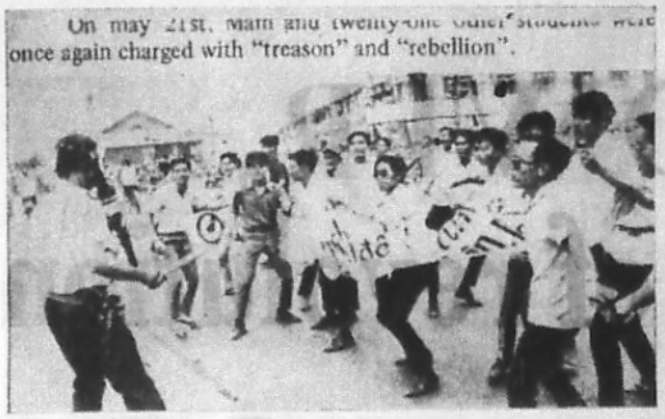
(Continued on page 2)

The RSVN PRG Flag fluttering on the Quang Tri Town Hall

State Power defended by the younger generation

Thieu's nine fascist measures

UNDER the impact of the shattering offensives and uprisings of the South Vietnamese PLAF and people, on May 12 the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling administration took nine "security measures" in the hope of staving off "Vietnamization" 's collapse: martial law throughout the US-Thieu occupied territory; curfew from 22.00 hours to 5 hours; prohibition of all strikes, demonstrations and meetings; censorship of all printed matters; ban on keeping and use of weapons; strict control and restriction of traffic; free requisition of any manpower and property; drafting of people from 17 to 43 years of age into the army; closing of all public and private universities and colleges...



Saigon Students' anti-US—Thieu demonstration

They are in fact fascist terror aimed at scraping up more recruits and resources in the cities and areas still under US-Saigon sway with a view to prolonging the death agony of Nixon's "Vietnamization." They also have made it possible for Thieu's agents to steal with impunity the people's property and enrich themselves. They spell out his regime's utter disruption, estrangement and decline. Thieu had in fact declared war on all social sections still under his sway. His moves not only constitute a threat to the life and property of everybody, but also challenge the freedom to sleep, to eat, to study, to move... that is all the basic needs of a man. In his last ditch, Thieu thinks that such security precautions will help him tide over this difficult period. He was wholly mistaken. Not only will they fail to make secure his tottering quisling regime, but they are in themselves a noose which will strangle it.

From all factories, universities and schools, city wards, labouring people's quarters, even from government offices and the "National Assembly," angry voices have been raised without let-up against Thieu's fascist measures. Among the people living in enemy-occupied cities and areas, there has been a growing realization of the true meaning of the oft-boasted US-Saigon "strength," etc. Far from being an indication of strength and victory, the nine measures are only the last squirms of a wild beast at bay.

Likewise Thieu's demand for full powers from his rubber-stamp Parliament threw a lurid light on his predicament at its worst. His emergency measures only add fuel to the fire now mounting high.

The death knell is being rung for Nguyen Van Thieu as he is running headlong on the road of national treason and endeavouring to implement "Vietnamization." The Ngo Dinh Diem fascist, dictatorial regime was brought to an end by the after-effects of the 10/59 fascist law which Thieu's 9 security precautions look ominously like.

STATE POWER,
the natural objective of revolution

(Continued from page 1)

resistance against US aggression for national salvation. Its foremost preoccupation is to rally all the forces of the nation, mobilize the energies and resources of the people for the fight against foreign invaders and for the defence of the fatherland. The PRG 12-point programme has no other purposes. There lies its appeal to the masses and the reason for their strict adherence to it. The last three years have shown that it has become the rallying standard of all patriotic forces who have been sharing the hallowed obligation toward our native land and a torch lighting our people's path to success after success and to the recovery of independence and freedom.

Independence, freedom, peace, neutrality and welfare are the vital rights our nation has been striving after. No popular rule living up to its name can deflect from those objectives. For independence for the fatherland and freedom for the people transcend the interest of all social segments. Voicing the innermost millenary aspiration of our nation, our beloved leader President Ho Chi Minh has formulated this phrase which, though a truism, carries in it such a profound message for us, Vietnamese: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." It has become the motto of a rule genuinely dedicated to the people and the guide line of a nation with an undaunted tradition behind it.

Because of all those aims and purposes of our revolutionary power, it has been the selected target of the enemy aggression and offensive, military, political, diplomatic and other actions. While carrying out their pacification programme, they have not ceased vilifying it and misrepresenting its democratic nature and trying to put a democratic and constitutional face on their client regime through farcical legislative and presidential elections. But the October 10, 1971 one-man race only exposed Thieu as a US creature. The "seven economic measures", "nine security precautions", "full powers", "5-point peace initiative", "8-point peace proposal" have shed additional light on his regime as a willing tool of US policy of aggression and Nixon's "Vietnamization." The ulterior motive behind all those moves is maintenance of the neo-colonialist rule and continuation of US military occupation in South Viet Nam. A government with such a motivation can only speak for the depreciating US dollar. The "democratic" and "constitutional" cloak Nixon has been trying hard to prettify it with is more inadequate than a fig leaf.

The peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue and the aspiration of the people of South Vietnamese cities and other occupied areas call for the formation of another government without Thieu and favouring independence, peace and democracy. As the PRG 10-point plan has made clear, the termination of the war and restoration of a genuine peace is entirely incompatible with the continuation in the saddle of the Thieu junta, pliant instrument of "Vietnamization."

The same PRG document has also suggested a tripartite national concord government consisting of:

— members of the PRG,

— members of the Saigon Administration that stand for independence, peace and democracy,

— individuals and representatives of various political, religious and social organizations and groupings at home and abroad that share the same position.

The proposed government will be fully entitled and qualified to organize general elections in South Viet Nam which will lead to the establishment of a legislative assembly and a fully-fledged government in an independent, peaceful, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam.

In the present political context of South Viet Nam, the proposition sounds reasonable and sensible, realistic and fair.

The Nixon administration has been stubbornly persisting in its search for a position of strength on the battlefield, setting its face against the legitimate wish of the South Viet Nam and turning down the PRG offers. To speed up "Vietnamization," it has been sticking fast to the Thieu quisling regime and endeavouring to keep it on its feet while making no bones that the US will not let "the Communists impose a political regime on South Viet Nam" and reiterating ad nauseam its profession of respect for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

THE unviability of the trigger-happy Thieu rule is left in no doubt. It has been leaning on two less than reliable supports, the US dollar and weaponry. The first has been in a slump and its supplies are far from inexhaustible, the more so in the present worsening economic and financial straits of the US. The second has since long proved its ineffectiveness. In the special war it was utterly unable to prevent Johnson's political ruin. In the present "Vietnamized" war, with the battered GI's being gradually pulled out and the Saigon army, backbone of "Vietnamization" and of the establishment itself being beaten to pulp, it is clear that the Thieu regime corroded by corruption and decay, is on its last legs. The inexorable juggernaut of the South Vietnamese patriots' current offensives is likely to crush it to smithereens. Meanwhile revolutionary power which has struck deep roots among the people is vigorously blooming. Mr Nixon may move heaven and earth to reverse the tide, to no avail.

"Vietnamization" is faced with complete collapse. The US President's efforts to revive this corpse will only accelerate its decomposition.

And then the natural objective of our revolution will be attained, notwithstanding all opposition from reactionary forces, for the present juncture is more favourable than ever.

SOUTH VIET NAM *in struggle*

Opening the way to seize power

Craters

THE following article is one of the three reports on Viet Nam prepared for Environment by two US scientists who have had considerable experience in that country. They are Dr. E.W. Pfeiffer, zoologist from the University of Montana, and Dr. Arthur H. Westing, botanist from Windham College, Putney, Vermont. Both scientists had previously traveled to Viet Nam to investigate the effects of wartime use of herbicides. In August 1971, they visited Viet Nam on behalf of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information and Environment. They explored, among other things, ways in which the landscape has been drastically altered by high explosives, including 7.5-ton bombs, and special bulldozers. (Previous reports dealt with the effects of herbicide spraying).

In summary, the investigations reveal that military operations in Viet Nam have disrupted the economy and cultural life of the people, as did saturation bombing and mechanized armies in Europe in World War II. For the most part, the high explosives used in the Indochina War have devastated the land rather than major cities, but the destruction has seriously damaged forests and soil on which the Vietnamese depend. For example, bulldozers equipped to clear jungles to the forest floor and thus deny cover to the opposing soldiers have already destroyed more than 40 million dollars worth of timber and rubber trees. Timber not destroyed outright frequently contains shrapnel that either breaks saw blades or promotes disease that weakens the wood. In the wake of jungle-clearing operations come soil erosion, flash floods, and invasion by economically useless weeds. The estimated ten million or more bomb craters in South Viet Nam disrupt rice farming and fill with water to become breeding places for disease bearing mosquitoes. Special blockbuster bombs — the largest aerial weapons available short of nuclear weapons — uproot all vegetation in football-field-size area and kill or injure all animal life for almost a mile in every direction. An as yet undetermined cost of the war will be the long-term ecological and sociological effects of this devastation.

S.N.

DURING the Indochina War the US has dropped more than two times the tonnage of bombs that was dropped in Europe, Asia, and Africa during World War II, most of it in Viet Nam, a country about the size of New England or one-half the size of Montana. Rockets, artillery shells, and mines have been exploded on a vast scale in many areas in Viet Nam, in addition to explosives dropped from aircraft. This ordnance has been used principally in free-fire zones or special-strike zones, which all people except the National Liberation Front and its North Vietnamese allies have supposedly located. Data on the extent of the free-fire zones of South Viet Nam would permit calculation of the percent of Vietnamese land surface that has been intensively subjected to these weapons. These data are not, however, presently available.

Although few details have been released regarding expenditures or target locations for the various types of munitions, the following summary figures for all of Indochina have been made available by the Department of Defense:

Munitions Used in Indochina War (in Millions of Pounds)

Year	Air munitions	Surface munitions	Total
1965	630	?	630
1966	1,024	1,164	2,188
1967	1,866	2,413	4,278
1968	2,863	3,003	5,866
1969	2,774	2,808	5,583
1970	1,955	2,389	4,344
Total	11,112	11,777	22,889

We do not know what fraction of the 23 billion pounds of munitions expended during these six years was small arms and other ordnance that would not produce craters (nor do we know what the distribution is among South Viet Nam, North Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos). To make some wild assumptions, if half the munitions (by weight) were of the sorts that produce craters (bombs, shells, etc.) and if each was a 500-pound bomb, then Indochina's landscape would now be more or less permanently rearranged by more than twenty million craters. Using an estimated average diameter of 30 feet, the holes alone would cover a combined area of about 325,000 acres. Although occasional, scattered craters can be found almost anywhere in rural South Viet Nam, we have observed large areas of severe craterization in the provinces of Tay Ninh, Long Khanh, Gia Dinh, Hau Nghia, Binh Duong, Quang Ngai, Quang Tin, and Quang Nam. We have been told about similar areas in Kien Giang, An Xuyen, and Quang Tri. No type of habitat seems to be spared, including forests and swamps, fields and paddies. Many severely craterized areas, such as the so-called free-fire zones, free-bomb zones, or specified-strike zones, were formerly inhabited and farmed. Such regions of important military activity as War Zones C and D, the Iron Triangle, the Rung Sat and U Minh Special War Zones, the Demilitarized Zone, and the Ho Chi Minh Trail are among those regions that have been subjected to repeated saturation or pattern bombing.

What is this unprecedented bombardment doing to Viet Nam and its people? In order to make a preliminary assessment of the effects of these explosives, Arthur H. Westing and I visited Viet Nam in August 1971. In preparation for our trip we had sought information from many sources on effects of bomb craters resulting from military activities, but were unable to find any significant information.

We flew over bombed areas in helicopters and rode in armored personnel carriers to observe at first hand craters from B-52 strikes. We interviewed in the field Vietnamese farmers who were trying to reclaim bombed land, Vietnamese loggers who were operating in bombed and shelled areas, and several Vietnamese and American officials.

In order to judge the magnitude of the problem it is necessary to have some idea of the number of bombs dropped and the amount of territory affected. Earlier studies have presented data which suggest that some 7.5 million craters have been formed as a result of the massive bombardment. Although we estimate that the current figure for South Viet Nam is in excess of 10 million, we are currently awaiting Department of Defense data to verify this figure.

The standard weapon of the B-52s is a 500-pound bomb; each B-52 carries 108 five hundred-pound bombs. Each bomb produces a hole 20 to 50 feet wide and 5 to 20 feet deep, depending on soil conditions. The bombs are usually dropped from over 30,000 feet by the B-52 aircraft and can have sufficient force on impact to penetrate deeply into certain types of soil.

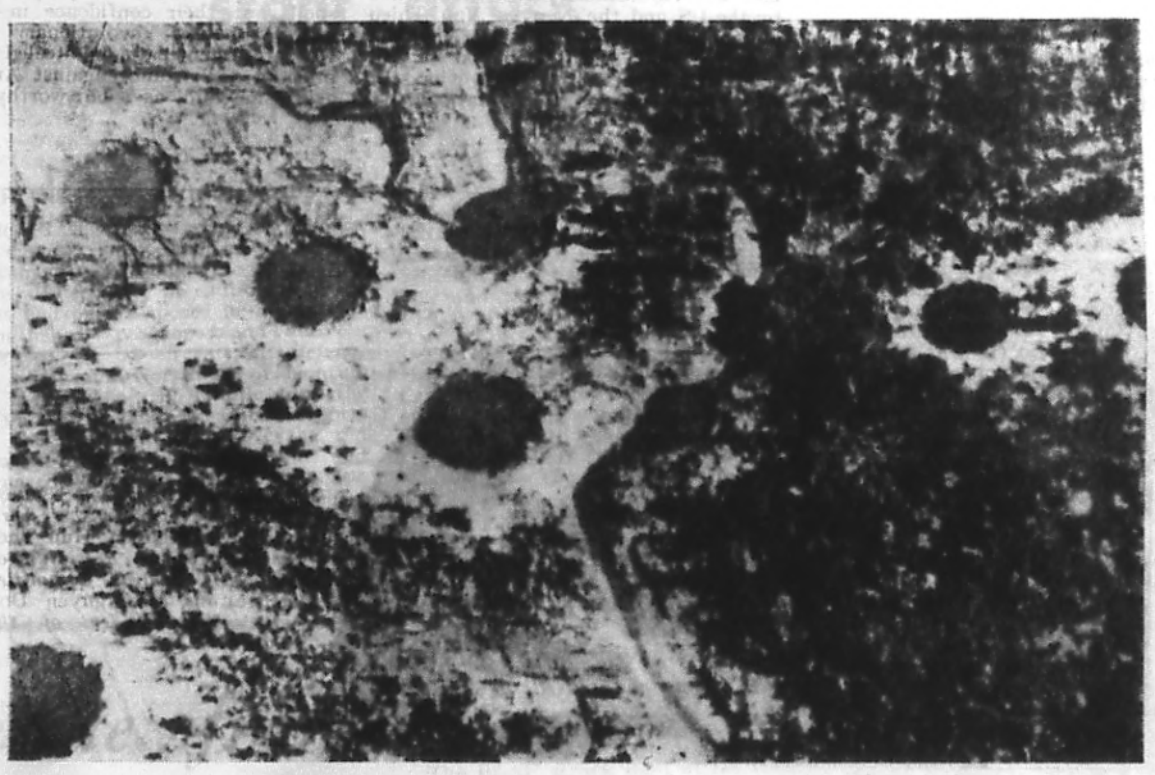
Severely bombed areas observed on our trip included the following land types: heavily cultivated areas of the Mekong Delta, intensively cultivated mountain valleys in the northern region of Viet Nam, mangrove forests, evergreen hardwood forests of the flat terraces northwest of Saigon, and evergreen hardwood forests of the precipitous mountain areas in the Da Nang-Quang Ngai area.

Because of the war situation at the time of our visit, we were unable to fly over, even at high altitude, the most intensively bombed regions of South Viet Nam which lie in the northwest corner of the country and along the Demilitarized Zone. We were also very disappointed to find that security problems made it very difficult to visit on foot bombed areas in all of the regions that we attempted to study. It is important to note that there are areas of South Viet Nam, particularly in the delta region, that do not reveal, at least from the air at 3,000 feet, much evidence of war damage. Large areas, however, have been hit very intensively by several types of ecologically devastating weapon.

What are the effect of the massive bombardments on cultivated areas such as the Mekong Delta? Our observation made both in wet and (on previous visits) dry seasons show that in the delta the B-52 craters and those caused by large artillery shells are permanently filled with water, probably because the craters penetrate the water table. In many areas waters of different colors fill adjacent craters. Some of the waters in the craters are aquamarine while others have a more bluish to greenish tint, and many are simply a muddy brown. These differences in coloration are apparently due to growths of varying types of algae. It is interesting that different growths occurred in contiguous craters.

(To be continued)

E. W. PFEIFFER



These craters disrupt rice farming and fill with water to become breeding places for disease-bearing mosquitoes

A GENUINE PEOPLE'S POWER

THE American imperialists and their agents in Saigon have been consistently trying to embellish the client "Second Republic" of Viet Nam. At the same time every psywar means has been used to distort the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Program of Action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and especially the PRG recently promulgated 10-point policy to achieve national unity.

All that has not however covered up the rottenness of the Saigon regime. Not only the South Vietnamese but progressive people the world over have realized the righteousness of the NFL and PRG policy of national concord and the subservience of the Nguyen Van Thieu fascist regime to US imperialism. In the first days of the current offensives and uprisings, the People's Revolutionary Committee of South Viet Nam's northernmost province of Quang Tri came into being with a communiqué on the implementation of the 10-point policy. The communiqué solemnly declares the liquidation of the cruel domination of US imperialism and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, which means the abolition of the US-puppets' coercive machine and the abrogation of all the laws enacted by them. Similarly, all property acquired by the American aggressors and the Saigon administration at the cost of the people's blood are requisitioned and will become public property. All people of Quang Tri province are now masters of their homeland, their destiny, their material and moral life. That is a tremendous landmark in the present wave of offensives and uprisings, one which highlights the just cause, the revolutionary objective of the South Vietnamese people struggling for the elimination of all oppression, all social injustice, all anti-national and anti-democratic laws and regulations.

The Quang Tri People's Revolutionary Committee's communiqué declares that democratic freedoms, equality between nationalities, freedom of belief and equality between religious communities will be guaranteed, concentration camps and anti-revolutionary factions created by the US and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique will be liquidated. The life and property and the livelihood of all social segments as well as of all honest foreign nationals — American nationals included — will be respected and protected. Clearly enough, the communiqué has helped bring about a new life, independence and liberty, with equal opportunities for all.

The policy of national concord of the Provisional Revolutionary Government has been thoroughly carried out in Quang Tri province, responding to the profound, sacred aspirations of its population. There will be no social discrimination against families with members pressganged to fight for the US imperialists. Functionaries of the former puppet administration will go on working under the guidance of the revolutionary power. Officers and soldiers of the Saigon army will be treated according to the PRG 10-point policy. The revolutionary power is ready to co-operate with all forces, all organizations and individuals standing for peace, independence, neutrality, for the pullout of US troops and the overthrow of Thieu. All those realistic policies have played a decisive role in setting in a new life one of whose outstanding features is the unity of the people. This unity will contribute tremendously to the fight for national salvation.

The fact that our fellow-countrymen in Quang Tri and other freshly liberated areas enthusiastically welcome the new life and the representatives of the new power eloquently illustrates that the policy of national concord pursued by the Provisional Revolutionary Government fully answers the desire of the South Vietnamese people. It also spells out their confidence in leading cadres of the revolutionary power, who are ardent patriots, steeled in the protracted resistance against American aggression and, as such, worthy representatives of the population. Realities in Quang Tri, on the other hand, bear out that the US-puppet regime thwarts the people's aspirations and that the people are resolutely struggling to eradicate it.

Emerging in a tidal wave of military offensives and popular uprisings, on a vast, discontinued region, the revolutionary power in Quang Tri province embodies a national and democratic power, a power of the people, for the people and by the people, a genuine national-concord power.

The activities of the Quang Tri People's Revolutionary Committee, which have shown that the acts of the Provisional Revolutionary Government fully conform to its declared policy, give the lie to the US-Saigon psywar propaganda. The Committee's communiqué on the PRG 10-point policy toward the newly liberated areas are stimulating the population of Quang Tri, and undoubtedly of South Viet Nam as a whole, to step up their resistance until total victory over the American aggressors and the traitors in their payroll.

Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh *reporting her work to Lawyer* Nguyen Huu Tho, *President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee* (centre) *and Mr* Nguyen Doa (left) *Vice-President of the PRG.*

Enemy position near Lai Phuoc *Bridge shattered by the South Viet Nam PLAF*

Second half of May, 1972

- **Enemy logistic bases under constant attack**
- Extensive popular uprisings

WHILE the US-Saigon command were making all-out efforts to strengthen their defence lines and while in Saigon the impression of observers was that a new phase of the offensive was in the making and might take place in the Hue sector as well as in Kontum or in the Saigon area, communist main-force troops and guerillas were still keeping the initiative (*AFP*, May 16), and right on the key fronts in the South Viet Nam battlefield, the PLAF pushed up their powerful offensives and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

IN EASTERN NAM BO

On the perimeter North of Saigon, the Liberation forces heavily engaged the 15th Regiment of the 9th Saigon Division, the 33rd Task Force of the 21st Division and the 1st Airborne Brigade trying to make a thrust into An Loc to relieve the battered troops South of the town. On May 19 the 3rd Battalion, 15th Regiment, was badly mauled, losing 160 men, and many tanks. Next day, in a ground shelling on the HQ of the 15th Regiment and the 9th Armoured Regiment, the PLAF wiped out nearly 400 enemy troops and destroyed many tanks and armoured cars. While 2 battalions of the 21st Division's 3rd Task Force refused to go to the rescue of beleaguered elements of the 9th Division, 2 battalions of the 1st Airborne Brigade were intercepted and nearly 100 of their men put out of action. They were unable to reach the encampment of the 15th Regiment. Remarkably the 9th Armoured Regiment, which was seriously trounced early in April and just replenished, came under a series of onslaughts, its retreat southward and on May 24 was completely destroyed. The PLAF captured or destroyed 43 tanks and armoured cars and put out of action the bulk of this regiment's strength. Its commander and deputy commander and American "adviser" were seriously wounded.

With a series of non-stop actions, the PLAF on the Binh Long front kept the enemy troops which had been under siege for more than one and a half month in a state of isolation and despair, and foiled all US-Saigon relief attempts. They destroyed more enemy manpower and pinned down many mobile units in this sector, making it possible for the armed forces and people in the delta plains to step up their offensives and uprisings and make new gains. Highway 13 remained closed in many sections between Chon Thanh and An Loc, and Saigon was still under serious threat.

IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

The PLAF pressed their attacks on the enemy defence perimeter around Kontum city. Although the enemy had taken all necessary precautions and his forces had been disposed in clusters of strengthened positions and actively supported by US aircraft, his defence line North and Northwest of Kontum was breached nearly 1 mile from the city on May 20 and 21. Initial reports said the assailants wrote off the 2nd Battalion of the 53rd Regiment and decimated 5 other battalions belonging to the 44th and 45th Regiments, Saigon 23rd Division. Relief troops were assaulted as soon as they reached the embattled area. On May 24, the 1st Battalion of the 44th Regiment and 2 battalions of a Ranger group were beaten hollow 3 miles North of Kontum city and at Yatove bridge, North of Pleiku city.

The heavy and constant pressure of the armed forces and people in the Central Highlands deeply alarmed the enemy troops, which had to dig in in strong fortifications and call in air strikes in an effort to hold out. Even with massive B-52 bombings, the defenders kept receiving heavy blows and their combat capacity was substantially reduced. Reporting on the heavy lighting in Kontum, *AP* said May 27 that "the fate of the province capital appeared to be hanging in the balance."

ON THE QUANG TRI-THUA THIEN FRONT

The PLAF struck hard at the enemy from May 21 to 27, and made a major breach in the My Chanh defence line which protected the city. They knocked out or captured nearly 2,350 enemy troops, shot down 26 aircraft and set ablaze 29 tanks and armoured cars. In terms of units they destroyed 2 battalions and 23 companies of enemy troops and depleted 3 other battalions. The crack Saigon soldiers,—assorted units of marines, paratroops and rangers—, moved in as reinforcements for the Northern Hue front, took severe punishment. In spite of maximum and prompt US air support, the defence line in Northern Thua Thien was terribly shaken. In this connection, *Reuter* said on May 27, "In the past week, the communists have tried to rush through outflank and infiltrate behind the My Chanh defence line." In a bid to bolster up the morale of the Saigonese troops, the US-Saigon Command launched so-called counter-attacks. But all their sea and airborne commando raids were quickly foiled.

The new successes of the PLAF on the Northern front have resulted in the further broadening and strengthening of the liberated zone in Quang Tri province, and at the same time made new breaches in the US-Saigon defences, and lowered their troop's morale still further.

Along with these onsets which made holes in enemy perimeters on the key front, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people also directed their attacks against enemy logistic compounds and airfield, causing heavy adverse losses and damage. Apart from the assault on the night of May 14 on the logistic base in the Rua area on the Cam Ranh peninsula which erased 15 military huts and an ammo dump, the raid on the US strategic storage area in Khanh Hoa province on the night of May 16 blew up 19 dumps containing over 20,000 tons of munitions and explosive. Explosions rocked Cam Ranh base and 170 American and Saigonese troops were killed. In Pleiku, at 2.30 a.m. on May 17, the PLAF made a surprise attack on a major storage area comprising 31 dumps containing bombs and artillery shells. The action set off 400 tons of ammunition and the explosions continued for 7 hours on end. Artillery shells fired by the PLAF grounded a US Air Force C-130 transport, killing 7 Americans aboard, as it was taking off from Kontum airfield. A depot containing artillery shells and an underground fuel tank was also struck, and gutted a huge fire (*AP*, May 17).

In coordination with the PLAF actions against enemy defense lines, the armed forces and people in Central Trung Bo, Eastern Nam Bo and the Mekong Delta vigorously stepped up their offensives and uprisings. Attacks on the enemy in Qui Nhon city, Binh Dinh province, on the night of May 18, took a toll of some 365 enemy troops wiped out or captured. The same night, the enemy defence complex and military sub-sectors at Ba To and Gia Vut, Quang Ngai province, came under fire. The Liberation fighters wreaked heavy damage on these positions, wiped out or captured over 600 enemy troops and freed over 7,000 people from concentration camps. From May 22 to 24, regional troops of Quang Nam province destroyed or caused the disintegration of a battalion and a security-forces multi-company unit and took over 400 prisoners. People across South Viet Nam rose up to seize control. On May 27 *AFP* noted that the Viet Congs were masters of a part of Phuoc Tuy province and that the situation was worsening in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri and elsewhere.

Toting ammunition to the front

THE contingent of army carriers was moving on the path by Bach Cuc towards the front, along a canal. Around, the fertile areas of the Plain of Reeds were riddled with bomb-craters and scorched grass lands. No one could count all the burnt huts and rusting bomb fragments littering all over this one.

The carriers were trotting quickly on the plain path in this windy day under a sweltering sun, though they had to keep in balance heavy loads on their shoulders. They were cheerful and nimble girls. Beads of sweat shone on their foreheads while their striped head-kerchiefs were fluttering in the wind. They were youths with a sunburnt skin and steady steps, and elder peasants who despite their white hair did not want to be bested by the youths in supplying the front.

In this season of offensives and uprisings, sons and daughters of the Plain of Reeds were all striving to distinguish themselves. They were people who had just broken away from "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native places. They were people who had fearlessly stuck to their land and arduously laid booby traps and mines to wipe out the enemy and defend their homes.

At the team leader's call to carry supply to the front, Hai, an 18-year-old boy, unhesitatingly abandoned his fishing, picked up his shirt and hastily joined his carrier-team. He did not remember how many trips he had made on this path and how many nights he had toted munitions up the line. Like them, Hai and other youths in the plain were always brimming with revolutionary zeal.

And the girl-carriers with beautiful names of flowers ringing laughter were also enthusiastically making their contribution right after their escape from "strategic hamlets." Lien, a girl who was not yet twenty, had asked for an extension of her assignment.

The path to the front was meandering and rough indeed; but it had been toughening these young legs. The two girls who were singing, were yesterday thrown down by the blast of a bomb, picked up hurriedly their ammo cases when the air-raid was over and rushed after their team to bring their supplies in time for the attack.

Nguyen was wounded many times by US bombs and shells in his frequent trips to the front. Though his injuries had seriously impaired, he was able to help the wounded when they were caught in an air-raid. And Uncle Chin, a thin and tall but tough man, always galvanized the youths in their trips and many times he helped them with their ammo cases when they were too tired.

All the carriers were now accelerating their pace in the sunset light. Gunshots were already heard in the direction of the Duong Van Duong canal.

Fires were raging in enemy posts. And the flow of ammunition kept streaming to the front to kindle new ones.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front's Appeal

BOOSTING UP PRODUCTION AND FIGHTING AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTING THE FRONTLINE

IN these days of military glory, the Viet Nam Fatherland Central Committee has held its 2nd session.

On behalf of its Presidium, Chairman Truong Chinh opened the meeting with a speech. Then Hoang Quoc Viet, member of its Presidium, read a political report which glowingly praised the tremendous and all-sided successes of the heroic South Vietnamese people and fighters as an important contribution to favourably changing the situation of the Indochinese people's anti-US, pro-national salvation war of resistance.

Hoang Quoc Viet heartily commended the people and armed forces of heroic North Viet Nam who, in response to the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the DRVN Government's appeal, had been dealing at the US air and naval forces due punishing blows, and striving to boost up production, practise economy and supply in time sufficient manpower and resources to the frontline, and keep traffic going in all eventualities.

He strongly condemned the warlike Nixon clique's "Vietnamization" and desperate war escalation against the DRVN, especially the mining and blockade of North Viet Nam's ports.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, Hoang Quoc Viet sincerely thanked the governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the Communist and Workers' Parties, the world peoples and progressive Americans for having come out strongly against the Nixon administration's frenzied war acts and for their resolute support for the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples.

In an atmosphere of elation, confidence and solidarity, the gathering unanimously adopted a statement which said:

IN these grave moments of history, the meeting once again reaffirms the iron-like and unshakable determination of our people: the entire people unite, North and South of one mind, determined to fight and defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend and build up the socialist North, and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland. Our people are resolved to stand shoulder to shoulder with the brother peoples of Laos and Cambodia to drive the US imperialists out of Indochina.

The US imperialists must end the aggressive war against Viet Nam and the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, withdraw all their troops, cease the bombing and shelling and the mining and blockade of the ports and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. In order to form a three-segment government of broad national concord in South Viet Nam and realize a really independent and free South Viet Nam, Nguyen Van Thieu must immediately resign and the repressive and coercive machine of the Saigon puppet administration must be abolished.

So long as the US imperialists have not given up their dark design of aggression against our country, our people will continue to fight till total victory.

Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. Every patriotic Vietnamese has the sacred duty of resisting aggressors to save the country. That is the sacred and inviolable right to self-defence of our people and combatants across the country. Our people have seen through all the sinister schemes of the US imperialists and resolved to fight them. The more frienzied they are, the heavier failures they will sustain.

The statement called on the people and armymen in the North to give adequate and timely aid to the frontline, to ensure communication and transit in all eventualities, smash every step of the enemy's military adventure, carry well the air defence and evacuation against air raids, while maintaining and developing production.

The statement stressed that every citizen must be a staunch fighter against US aggression for national salvation, every factory, construction site, state farm, co-operative, public organ, school, street must be an anti-US bastion.

The statement called on the people of the socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world including the progressive people in the United States, to continue supporting the national salvation fight of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, launch a stirring and multiform struggle in the five continents and be determined to check the US aggressors' acts of war escalation.

Carcass of a US plane downed on April 16 in Haiphong

Somewhere on the Hanoi bridge

HANOI, May 10. The sky was clear and the atmosphere was hot. The enemy came at 10: 52 in the slanting rays of the sun. Both sides saw clearly each other, face to face in a fierce confrontation. But through their frightened flight the enemy only located us when our storming hatred roared from the ground. As for us, we pierced their cowardice through the pilots we captured this day from the nine Nixon planes downed. On the soil of our Capital we were constantly ready, our moral life always higher than their flight.

This could be seen everywhere in the frontlines of our fighting in Hanoi. At the watch station on the city end of the Long Bien bridge, young policeman Quach Ngoc Tuan was on duty. On hearing a bomb explosion from the other end of the bridge, he also thought of his girl friend there. Spanning the Red River, the great bridge, a symbol of Hanoi, had become a friend since many years. He had looked after it from peacetime to wartime, whether standing in his watch station or going in patrol. It was during these courses that he met a girl a welder. When the Johnson planes attacked the bridge she was there to join the broken bits. A common fight had made them intimate friends. Just two years ago Quach Ngoc Tuan and Than Thi Hai got married. Today, the second anniversary of their wedding, they worked as usual on the bridge, for they did not want to be absent in such an urgent situation.

When the bomb exploded on the other end of the bridge, Tuan was pulling the alarm siren. This done, he rushed out to direct the motorcars to their safety parks. For her part, Hai was also present on the bomb-site with the repair team. It was a woman unit which had worked all through the years of the US war of destruction and been recognized for three straight years as a socialist labour team. Today they were in for their first fight with the Nixon planes. In this urgent situation, the welders busy with small children were relieved by younger ones from the youth section led by An Thi Ty. The repair was all the more rapidly done as the tools had been put aside in anticipation of this contingency.

When the night drew in, loudspeakers were heard advising the population to disperse outside Hanoi to facilitate the work of the anti-aircraft defence. All positions were ready. Should the enemy come, they would meet with severe rebuffs.

HO XUAN SON

The World's Progressives Condemn Nixon, Support Viet Nam

LATIN AMERICA

o CUBA:

In a rally in Havana on May 15 afternoon, 100,000 Cubans showed solidarity with Viet Nam and expressed their indignation at the warlike and impudent measures taken by Nixon on May 8. Prior to this, meetings were staged all over Cuba: in Havana on May 12, 800 "lightning" meetings took place, and at Guantanamo, on May 13 thousands of people paraded in the streets against Nixon, for Viet Nam.

o CHILE:

Meetings and demonstrations were organized in Santiago de Chile and other cities including Valparaiso, Concepcion, Arica, etc. The May 17 rally in Valparaiso was attended by more than 10,000 people who burnt US flags and chanted anti-US slogans. A class boycott was observed by Chile University students who also donated blood for Viet Nam.

o MEXICO:

On May 17, in heavy rain, 10,000 youths, workers and civil servants took to the streets with President Ho Chi Minh's portraits and RSVN flags and shouted slogans: "US murderers out of Viet Nam!" They took down the US flag at the American Embassy in Mexico City and burnt it.

o VENEZUELA:

On May 17, students and pupils in Valencia stayed away from class and demonstrated against US war escalation in Viet Nam. They hurled "Molotov cocktails" at US business firms in downtown Valencia.

Previously, on May 12, student outbursts were reported in Caracas and other cities.

o PERU:

An unprecedentedly large demonstration was staged in Lima on May 19 night in support of Viet Nam, against the USA. 1,500 people paraded in downtown Lima shouting: "US get out of Peru!" San Marcos University students distributed in a previous rally leaflets supporting Viet Nam and urging US withdrawal from Viet Nam and Latin America.

o COSTA RICA:

In a demonstration in San Jose on May 16, students stuck on the US Embassy walls slogans castigating US war expansion in Viet Nam. They had earlier staged rallies at the Central Park, film shows and photo exhibitions denouncing US genocide in Viet Nam.

o COLUMBIA:

In Bogota a flag-burning demonstration and other actions were taken by students against Nixon's decision to mine DRVN ports. Defying pro-US regime's terror, they had earlier burnt down 2 US Embassy cars.

o PUERTO RICO:

Demonstrators fought with policemen and threw stones at US big stores in protest against the new US escalation.

SCANDINAVIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

o FRANCE:

In the wake of spirited demonstrations that erupted in Paris and other cities after Nixon's announcement of new war measures against Viet Nam, on May 15 and 16 rallies and meetings were again held by Frenchmen and French women in support of Viet Nam in such cities as Clermont Ferrand, La Rochelle, Perpignan, Orleans, etc.

o ITALY:

On May 13, a "sleepless night for Viet Nam" was observed in Rome by 50,000 people against the new US war acts and for the Vietnamese. Then on May 15 and 16 numerous meetings, rallies and strikes broke out at Modena, Pitoia, Liverns, etc. At Florence, a demonstration was joined by 20,000 people on May 16.

o GREAT BRITAIN

In London, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff... demonstrations were staged by students, intellectuals, artists and other people against the US blockade of North Viet Nam and bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. In Edinburgh, students gathered in an anti-US rally. 100 MPs signed a petition in protest against the US blockade of North Viet Nam and in support of US Senator McGovern's proposal for US bombing halt and troop withdrawal.

o WEST BERLIN:

On May 13, 10,000 people demonstrated with RSVN flags and posters for US immediate cessation of war acts against the DRVN, total withdrawal of troops from South Viet Nam and an end to the US aggression in Viet Nam.

o WEST GERMANY:

In Frankfort, Munich, Freiburg, thousands of people, mostly students, held rallies to demand US cessation of war escalation in Viet Nam and serious negotiation at the Paris Conference. Addle eggs were hurled by students at the US Information Hall in Freiburg.

o HOLLAND:

The US Consulate-General in Amsterdam was besieged by young protestors against Nixon's war escalation in Viet Nam for 4 days, from May 9 to 12.

o SCANDINAVIA

In Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, people angrily took to the streets for demonstrations and other activities against US war intensification in North and South Viet Nam. In Sweden, after the ever largest 12,000-strong demonstration in Stockholm on May 10 and others at Goteberg, Lund, Upsala, Umea, on May 17 afternoon a 5500-people rally called by the FNL Group and the Swedish Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, with the contribution of 500 political, laborer and religious bodies, ended with a march from the Central Square to the US Embassy. It was led by Education Minister Carlson carrying a huge poster reading: "The US must stop mining and bombing." He was followed by MPs displaying a poster: "21 MPs support the PRG 7 points." In front of the US Embassy, the demonstrators chanted: "Nixon the murderer!", "Stronger support for Viet Nam!"

o EASTERN EUROPE

Demonstrations took place in all countries of Eastern Europe and meetings were held by sailors and naval officers in the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria... in which resolutions were passed against Nixon's war moves. Unswerving support for the Vietnamese people's struggle until complete victory was reaffirmed.

ASIA

o INDIA:

In two days — May 12 and 13 — Indians including youths and students staged uninterrupted parades and demonstrations in Calcutta and New Delhi. The Bank of America in Calcutta was struck by a bomb, and Nixon was burnt in effigy in front of the US Infornation Service and Consulate General.

o PAKISTAN:

On May 15, thousands of students, teachers, lawyers and workers demonstrated in front of the US Information Service in Lahore and passed resolutions pointing out that the USA had been assaulting a small country of Asia separated from America by thousands of miles; but the heroic Vietnamese people would kick the aggressors out of their territory and inflict on them and their valets stinging setbacks.

o BANGLA DESH:

On May 11, a protest meeting was held in Dacca against the US mining and blockade of North Vietnamese ports and for US immediate, total withdrawal of troops from Viet Nam. Among the attendants was the Minister of Posts, and representatives of political parties and mass organization in Dacca.

o THAILAND:

On May 12, 24 Thai citizens handed to the Thai authorities a petition condemning the US aggression in Viet Nam. The documents also denounced US supply of war materials and personnel to the Saigon administration for prolonging the war against the Vietnamese people.

o THE PHILIPPINES:

In two consecutive days, May 14 and 15, thousands of people including many youths demonstrated before Clark air base to protest against US use of the base for the enlargement of the Viet Nam war. Demonstrators fought back, with home-made bombs policemen called in against them. On May 15, anti-US demonstration broke out in front of US Embassy in Manila.

o JAPAN:

On May 17, a total of 200,000 Japanese held meetings and demonstrations in 511 places against "US return of administrative power in Okinawa to Japan" and Sato's permission to the US to use Okinawa as a base for the Viet Nam war.

AUSTRALIA

On May 19, 700 people in Melbourne paraded through the streets against the US new war escalation in Viet Nam. They burnt Nixon and the Australian Premier in effigy. Earlier, on May 12 night, numerous demonstrations were staged in the same place and other cities like Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney...

AFRICA

o TANZANIA:

On May 11, all factories, shops, government offices and schools in Dar-es-Salaam closed down, and 100,000 people demonstrated against the US mining and blockade of North Vietnamese ports. It was the biggest anti-US demonstration ever seen here. Posters carried by demonstrators read: "Nixon is today's Hitler!" They marched on to US Embassy and handed in a petition against the US war of aggression in Indochina.

o SOMALIA:

On May 14, thousands of people took part in rallies and demonstrations against the US new war moves and for the patriotic fight of the Vietnamese. Among the demonstrators were Ismail Ali Abuca, Vice-President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, and government ministers.

o MALI:

In Bamako on May 19 night a big meeting was held and a resolution approved against the new escalation in the US war of aggression in Indochina. The resolution also reaffirmed strong support of the people of Mali to the Indochinese peoples' resistance against US imperialism.

Since his May 8 speech

WHAT HAS NIXON REAPED?

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

"Vietnamization" is facing unescapable fiasco

After one month of offensives and uprisings, the PLAF Command said on May 5, in a communiqué: "The heavy reverses sustained by the US-Thieu troops in all fields herald the inevitable collapse of "Vietnamization."

On May 8, Nixon went on the television and with sophisms and slanderous accusation, challenged the whole mankind and announced a serious escalation of the war in Viet Nam. The move made in a fit of madness was tantamount to an avowal by Tricky Dick of at least four things:

1 — The Saigon armed forces including the regular army and para-military forces — security and people's self-defence — were beaten black and blue, lost all heart and were unable to stand the PLAF punches.

2 — The "pacification" programme was going down the drain, depriving the Saigon army of a prop and a source of replenishment.

3 — US aviation and navy, deployed to a maximum, were incapable of changing the situation and proved inefficient in face of the powerful and versatile people's war.

4 — The situation had become hopeless for the US and its agents on the South Viet Nam battlefield.

Such was the gloomy picture of "Vietnamization" which Nixon tried to brighten up with methods applied outside South Viet Nam, including the mining and blockade of ports, and intensification of the air and naval war, in North Viet Nam.

What are the objectives that may be attained by Nixon?

The answer to this may be found in the lessons by Johnson, and contained in the secret document coded NSS which Nixon already had in his pocket. It may also be provided by the 100-odd aircraft downed, dozens of warships set afire or sunk, while batches of air marauders and sea pirates killed or sent to Hanoi-Hilton.

As a matter of fact, the Saigon army had come under the devastating attacks of the PLAF and stampeded in dozens of ways, with US advisers fleeing in helicopters well before the rank-and-file and Saigon commanders also running for dear life. Its infantrymen had thrown off their guns and got rid of their uniforms to better mingle with civilians, jumped on any kind of vehicle, seized motorcycles and put on the headlights in the daytime in their flight. Its tanks and armoured cars had crushed its own footmen then dived into the river. "Marines" from its brigade No 147 confessed that in the thick of the fighting in solidly-built fortifications, they were already shivering with fear, only thinking of how to flee and avoid hunger, and when they were routed, they vied with one another in running as fast as their legs could carry them, treading upon their mates' corpses "in the marines' way." Whole regiments, brigades, tactical groups, of the Saigon army had collectively opposed the war, surrendered to the adverse side or mutinied and resisted marching orders, were the cases of Regiment 56 (Division 3) in Tri-Thien, Ranger Battalion in Ben Het in the High Plateaux, Tactical Group 9 in Eastern Nam Bo, Regiment 31 (Division 21) in the Mekong Delta. The ranks of this army disintegrated at a moment when they still had the powerful support of swarms of US aircraft and had at their disposal huge depots of ammunition and war means supplied by the Yankees.

Austrian Premier's son at the anti-Nixon meeting on May 20 in Salzburg

Meanwhile in South Viet Nam the impetus wave of offensives is going on unchecked by the emergency measures taken by Nixon outside South Viet Nam. From Tri-Thien, the High Plateaux, coastal Trung Bo to Eastern Nam Bo and the Mekong Delta, everywhere the guns of the attackers keep booming and the people to rise up and shatter the quisling stimulating apparatus.

Whatever Nixon may do, he cannot ward off the total collapse of his "Vietnamization", a policy conceived by him right after his inauguration as a first application of the doctrine bearing his name and intended to enable the weakening United States to continue in its role as an international gendarme. Nixon's stupidity lies in his trying to use an ointment to treat a patient whose inner organs are affected.

IN THE WORLD

Growing support for Viet Nam The United States pitifully isolated

A petition handed on May 11 by Norwegians to the US Ambassador in Oslo read: "The United States wants the progressive forces to stop supporting the Vietnamese people. The US wants the Vietnamese people to surrender and renounce their sacred right to liberate their own country. We unequivocally state that our support for the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples will grow at the same rate as Nixon's intensification of his criminal war of aggression." It was a relevant answer from the world's progressives to the White House warlords from the announcement of the mining DRVN ports and stepped up air and naval bombardments of North Viet Nam territory.

The May 12 issue of the *Daily News* in Tanzania rightly pointed out that no man of conscience can sit idly while the US aggressors are indulging in frantic war acts against the Vietnamese people. The world is now resounding with angry shouts castigating Nixon and reaffirming support for the Vietnamese people until final victory. Statements have been issued by the Governments of the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic, by the Governments, Foreign Ministries, National Assemblies of so many other countries, by world-famed statesmen, heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers, by international and regional organizations, by national political parties and mass organizations. Everywhere, slogans like "Nixon a mad dog!", "Nixon murderer!", "Nixon-Nuremberg", "US imperialists out of Viet Nam!", "Victory to the Vietdamese people!", "NFL will win!", etc. have been chanted by millions of people in meetings, rallies, parades and other protest actions in the capitals and other cities of European, Asian, Latin American, Australian countries.

Drawing from the Cuban magazine
Olivo Verde

Some countries have been for the first time sites of demonstrations tens of hundreds of thousands strong as Chile, Peru, Mexico, Tanzania, West Berlin, Italy, Sweden... The Nixon administration's missions have been encircled, ransacked in many places. In France and West Germany, anti-US bomb attacks were made for 14 consecutive days (*AP*, May 15) which wounded 1 US colonel, 1 captain, 5 soldiers and killed 2 other soldiers. Denunciation of Nixon and sympathy for Viet Nam has been frontpaged by newspapers all over the world.

Apart from moral support, a Cuban medical team of volunteers has arrived in Viet Nam, sailors from brotherly socialist countries have reaffirmed their determination to bring aid to Viet Nam in defiance of US bombs and shells, the peoples of the GDR, Chile, France, Scandinavian countries... have pushed up their collections for Viet Nam, three Palestinian children have donated to Viet Nam 30,000 escudos they had saved.

Never before has the world's movement against US aggression on Viet Nam been so extensive and so powerful. Never before has Nixon been so severely criticized by public opinion.

Nixon should be tried! As a politician, he had committed innumerable crimes against the freedom- and independence-loving peoples, and against democratic and progressive forces in the United States as well. In his brutal war of aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina, he has destroyed animal life and vegetation there, sent thousands of young Americans to their death, separated thousands of American families from their dear ones and reduced them to misery and despair.

Such are the themes discussed by all the progressive people in face of the frenzied acts of the warmongers at the White House and the Pentagon. And the feeling of our time has been voiced by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in his May 16 Algiers speech: "Viet Nam is fighting not only for herself, but also for the whole world. Viet Nam is waging a war to liberate all nations. Viet Nam is not alone, truth is on its side, the world peoples are associating themselves with it, all progressive countries are standing by it, revolutionaries are ready to take up arms for it. The imperialists cannot do anything against this trend."

IN THE UNITED STATES

Deepening dissension, opposition and crisis

Since May 8, when Nixon made public his massive war escalation, millions of people of all walks of life have staged rallies and passed resolutions, sent cables and messages to the US government, congressmen and newspapers. They have paraded in many cities in all American states and strongly denounced the White House bosses' adventurist policy. American progressives valiantly took to the streets — 15,000 people in Washington, 10,000 in New York. It was the greatest outburst since May 1970. As Nixon bombed Viet Nam, the Pentagon was rocked by a bomb planted in the office of the Air Force Secretary. As Nixon mined North Viet Nam ports, symbolic mining was staged at Bay Biscayne where Nixon usually spends his holidays. "Most heated" discussions erupted at the Senate. Well-known personalities labelled Nixon as a "madman," a trigger-happy man having no regard for international law. Many representatives demanded his dismissal, brought legal actions against him for violation of the US Constitution.

No US president has ever been so despised by the American people as Nixon. The gap between him and the American people is unprecedentedly wide. As the *New York Times* commented on May 10, Nixon was sending America down the slope just as Johnson did in 1965.

The Viet Nam war which Nixon claimed to have relegated into the back stage in this year of presidential elections with his deceptive "Vietnamization", has been on the first pages of newspapers. It still exerts a strong impact on US material and moral life, on US politics and economy. What has angered the American people is the lies Nixon told them only 12 days ago when he boasted of the success of Vietnamization, whereas the measures taken by him on May 8 were a clear indication of its utter failure. The American people felt they have been cheated and betrayed. They realize that with Nixon as president, US manpower and wealth will further be squandered in a savage and yet hopeless and losing war. This war with which they are fed up, not only goes contrary to Nixon's electoral pledge, it is moreover enlarged, more brutal and more costly to the American nation under its "Vietnamized" form.

US interests call for an immediate end to Nixon's collapsing "Vietnamization", cessation of US support to dictator Nguyen Van Thieu and of US dangerous provocations against other countries. US return to the Paris Conference and settlement of Viet Nam problem on the basis of the sensible and reasonable proposals of the RSVN PRG: such is the message the American people want to convey to Nixon through their turbulent and resolute anti-war actions in the last few weeks.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION